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Letter dated 20 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and pursuant to my letter of 19 September 1995 (S/1995/807), I have the honour to inform you that the Israeli authorities have failed to fulfil their international obligations to release immediately the hijacked plane, its passengers and crew and to extradite the terrorist hijacker(s). Attempts to establish third-party channels to expedite their return have been rejected by Israel.

Furthermore, according to public statements made by senior Israeli officials, innocent passengers have been kept by Israel against their will and are being interrogated in contravention of established principles of international law. At the same time, statements sympathetic to the terrorist hijacker(s) are being made by various officials, including the armed forces chief.

I should like to underline that as of yesterday afternoon local time, when the hijacker(s) surrendered, there has been no reason whatsoever for detaining the passengers, the crew and the airplane. The continued refusal of Israel to permit departure of the plane with all its passengers constitutes a grave breach of international law and indeed amounts to a blatant act of hostage taking.

It is evident that this terrorist hijacking of a civilian airliner is being used by Israel, against all principles of international law, to advance an irrelevant, and indeed baseless, political agenda. This gives further credibility to the impression of a pre-planned Zionist operation.

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* A/50/150.

In view of the ulterior motives of and the illegal procrastination by Israel, as well as its apparent sympathy with the hijacker(s), the Islamic Republic of Iran expects the united Nations to take every necessary measure in order to ensure the immediate and safe return of the passengers and the crew, along with the aircraft, and the extradition of the terrorist hijacker(s).

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 149 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative